
ARENA REPORT

Volume II, Number 12

"GALA IN GREENSBORO"
February 23-25, 1990
Greensboro, NC

Don't look twice at the title "AR" fans. Yes, this is still a wrestling sheet and not a society 'zine. The next few pages will chronicle the "Wrestle War" weekend of your faithful editor. It should be a fun read. Especially with all the characters that will be attending. Also in this issue you'll find another segment of "Cosmic Clothesline" by Jersey Joe Mullins. (You left out Mike Gunter you hammerhead.) The debut of Mike Terry's column "It's My Two Cents" also graces this ish along with reports and "Ramblings". I think Mike's column will offset the zaniness of Monsieur Mullins. (Don't take that as an insult Joisy, just need some variety.)

Next issue will be a double live report from yours truly as I'll be attending the NWA show in St. Petersburg on 3/16 and the WWF show on 3/17. The NWA show is loaded and Vince's is one of the worst but guess who'll outdraw who. It makes me ill. Evan Ginzburg will be back for another round of "A Piece of My Mind" as well as the other regular features. I've been requested by some of you to give a little background on myself and how I got interested in rasslin. I'm planning on doing a small piece like that in my Wrestlemania issue out 4/1. For those that don't care.... you lose. By the by, that WWF show I mentioned above is in Orlando.

A nice welcome to all new readers of "Arena Report". Your interest is very much appreciated. And thanks to the old readers as well. Remember, you all can send match reports. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to jot down some results. (I'll be lucky to have any subscribers left at the rate I'm going.) "Arena Report" comes out twice per month at the cost of 75¢ per issue. All subscriptions, letters, and reports can be sent to Ron Lemieux, 916 Sloewood Ct. Lake Mary, FL 32746. A number should appear at the top left corner of this page signifying how many issues you have remaining on your sub. Without any more ga-ga, lets head for Orlando International Airport.

Friday, February 23

I arrived in G-Boro at 7:00 and spent an hour looking for the people already there. About 11 of us including Grand Poobah Steve Sims, Handsome Harry White, and Jeff Zinger of Canadian descent watched the WWF Main Event in Steve's room. We were also joined by former (?) pro wrestler Don Kernodle. Most of us didn't know it was him until we realized he was the only one not laughing at all our stories. Good thing no one said anything like, "Hey, remember that bum who got the push as Sgt. Slaughter's tag partner." Actually, Don's work during that time was very good. The following is my review of the show.... 1) Hulk Hogan pinned Randy Savage with the legdrop in 12:13. Buster Douglas was the ref but it was still your typical Savage-Hogan bout. Douglas sent Sherri to the back so we could go to commercial. After the finish, Macho slapped Buster and Douglas fired a phantom punch and then hit Randy with one that was a little better. Match was okay but I was fairly bored. *44

2) Ultimate Warrior pinned Dino Bravo in seven minutes using the flying shoulder tackle and splash. Warrior is psychotic. His interviews are getting out of control. He pants Jimmy Hart under the ring at one point which pleased all the perverts out there. (Not you LL) After the pin, Earthquake attacked Warrior and when he went for an elbow from the top rope, Hogan came out and belted him. Not a bad bump but that was because Quake got his foot caught in the ropes so he couldn't land on his feet. Warrior and Hulk then got into it because Ultimate didn't feel he needed the help. *.... A waste of time... Line of the show from our group came from Kernodle. Someone asked, "Why is Douglas's manager with him?" To which Don responded, "In case he needs help finding the ring."... After the show, Harry, Zingman, and myself went for something to eat where Zinger asked for a glass of white milk. Maybe you other canuck readers can help me out. Do you have red, yellow, and blue milk in Canada?... The three of us then sojourned into a fine drinking establishment. Hey Harry, do you have any more dollars?... We then headed back where we talked rasslin with Steve and Scott Hudson until we fell asleep at 3:30 a.m. (Harry would want you to know that the name of the bar was "Teasers".)

Saturday, February 24

Dan Reilly arrived today with someone from the NWA who shall remain nameless. "Wrestling Observer"'s Dave Meltzer, Matwatch's Steve Beverly, and Silo Mike Gunter also came in today... After we watched TBS, we headed for the Holiday Inn bar where we assumed the boys would be. We weren't disappointed. Terry Funk, Kevin Sullivan, Jim Ross, Chris Cruise, and Woman were all there when we arrived. Ross and Funk held court with a bunch of us. Here are some of the things we learned: Scotty the Body has a 5/15 start date... Eddie Gilbert will be turned heel and managed by Teddy Long.... Midights and Swat Team will be staying although the Dudes and Militia will be history along with Ranger Ross. At this point, Roadie Hawk and Mike Enos entered the hotel lobby. Boy, now you know who was under the hood as Mark Callas's partner. It was only a one shot deal but he and Wayne Bloom will be in in May as the Destruction Crew.... There was a minor disturbance as Hawk came running over to Funk complaining that the bouncer wouldn't let him in the night club portion because he had a bandana on his head. Father Terry took care of it... Ricky Morton was also in the nightclub as well. Jeff Zinger highlight of the night was getting his picture taken with Sullivan's daughter. Good thing that's all he did. She's only 14 and well, you know all about J.Z. Travis... The reason Spivey wasn't at the show was because he was fired for no showing all last week... Ric Flair resigned as booker. Ross has the main duties now. One of the most interesting things Jim said was that when Terry Taylor's contract is up in July, the NWA will try to get him. Ross thinks Taylor will make a good fourth Horseman. He doesn't feel they'll need a big sell job to overcome the Rooster humiliation.... Johnny Ace mentioned that the Dudes are talking to Vince. Could be just talking to keep his pride. ... Packed it in at 3.

Sunday, February 25

Ten of us went out for brunch and then we headed over to the Holiday Inn where Dave had some business to do. While hanging out in the lobby, more wrestlers and crew arrived including the Steiners, Zenk, Hayes, Solie and on and on it goes. At one point we had the four Perry White's of wrestling in one area: Meltzer, Dennis Brent, Bill Apter, and George Napolitano..... After a lazy afternoon, it was time to go to the show. A few of us piled into the Bevster's van and headed for the Coliseum. Dore DeQuattro of Bayside, NY (an arena reporter himself) had a letter from Frank Amato of Championship Wrestling magazine directed to Kevin

Sullivan. It was a letter requesting a press pass. Dore, his wife Michell Dan and I tried to get in the back. No such luck. But Wahoo McDaniel gave Dore a comp front row seat and that's where yours truly viewed the last two matches. Thanks Dore.... The following is my Live report on the show. Make sure you read it because there is "Rambling" style material in it. 1) Buzz Sawyer & Kevin Sullivan beat Dynamic Dudes in 10:12. There was some heat in the back before the bout as Johnny didn't want to do the job. Well, he did. Crowd was dead. (For most of the show.) Sawyer did the flying dog on Johnny for the win. Buzzer hurt his hand on the move as it was all bandaged in the hotel later. Sullivan busted his eardrum during the bout. * 2) Norman (he's no longer a lunatic. They let him out and now he's a normal civilian.) pinned Cactus Jack in 9:32. Manson was going for a piledriver but Normie backdropped him and sat on him for the win. The usual 2 or 3 crazy bumps by Manson. Match not good though. $\frac{1}{2}$ * 3) Rock N' Roll Express beat Midnight Express in a **** match. Cornette and Nick Patrick did some great comedy and they needed something to get this crowd going. It worked. Lane knocked Bobby down outside the ring after an inring screwup. They shook hands. Sign of the night, "We Have Herd Enough". Midnights were going for a flapjack on Gibson when Morton took Lane out. Robert rolled up Eaton for the win. Time was 22:56. 4) Road Warriors beat Skyscrapers in a Chicago Street Fight in 5:01. Callais and Enos under the hood. Don't seem like the scrapers to me. Roadies had best entrance of the night. But after that, the place died again. Mean Mark left Enos alone and he bit the big one when the Roadies executed the top rope clothesline. Teddy Long, who had earlier been smacked by Ellering was in the aisle with Reed and Simmons who were dressed in tuxes. Why? They came in after the bout and got into it with the Roadies and they should have had Reed and Simmons destroy them for the upcoming feud. The way they did it is pointless. $\frac{1}{4}$ * 5) Tom Zenk and Brian Pillman retained the U.S. tag belts by beating the Freebirds in 24:33. This was agony. Too long and no heat whatsoever. Pillman did some nice spots but they messed up tons of moves. Garvin was going for the DDT on Zenk when Brian went to the top rope. (Almost didn't get there in time as a TBS cameraman was in the way.) Pillman hit Jimmy Jam with a flying bodypress for the win. $\frac{1}{4}$ * 6) Rick & Scott Steiner retained the World Tag Titles by turning back the Andersons in 16:02. Nothing special although it wasn't bad. Steiners are monsters. Andersons went for a double backdrop on Rick but he kicked Arn and cradled Ole for the win. ** 7) Ric Flair beat Lex Luger via count out in 38:07. Sting was announced at the beginning of the bout and got the biggest pop of the night. He came out on crutches and then went back to the dressing room. A fan (One of our contingent, John Hitchcock.) held up a poster that said "Happy 30th Birthday Ric Flair." Flair laughed. It was his birthday, but he turned 40. Good action. While recovering outside the ring at one point, Luger ripped down a Horseman poster that was on the rail. Flair screamed at a photographer who got in his way when he went to slam Luger's head into the rail. A TBS cameraman dropped his camera and it took him 5 mintes to fix it. The TV crew was scrambling. While Lex was in trouble, Sting came out egged Lex on. Luger took control but the Andersons came out. Luger nailed them with clotheslines and they decided to attack Sting which they did ever so gingerly. Lex, who had Flair in the torture rack, released the hold to help the Stinger. Patrick counted him out and the fans were pissed. While the Horsemen ganged up on Luger, the Steiners made the save and Sting raised Lex's hand. Not a total babyface turn still by Luger as they stayed apart. Match was great but I wanted a title change. The fans are getting tired of Flair as champion. But there really are no alternatives as Lex doesn't want the title short term which is what the NWA wanted to do. ****

After the card we headed for the hotel again and it was the highlight of the weekend. There was wrestlers, announcers, newsletter editors, and fans of all kinds milling about the lobby bar... Just about all the guys were present. No one could be nicer than Cactus Jack Manson. Maybe it's all those crazy bumps he's taken.... When someone offered to buy him a drink, his reply was, "In spite of how I look, I don't drink or do drugs."... Wahoo got into an argument when the bartender told him they were closed. It'd be good for your weight bud.... Ric Flair was having a birthday party upstairs so some of the guys weren't at the bar. But Flair's 14 year old daughter was. Hey Zingman, next time why don't you try Terry Bollea's little girl... Separated at birth: Hacksaw Duggan and Joel Goodheart.... Overused line of the weekend: "Shoes for your feet, pockets for your STUBS." (A Roos commercial for Kerry Von Erich.) This night ended with a breakfast at 2:00 a.m. at the Waffle House. .. In retrospect, the weekend was awesome while the card was disappointing. This was by far the best get together yet. I highly doubt the WWF guys would be as open as the NWA crew was here this weekend. Class acts, almost all of them. If you ever get a chance, don't pass it up. Go to one of these. It'll be more fun than you'll ever imagine.

Ramblings

NWA has a three hour live TBS special planned for April 14 coming from the Sam Houston Coliseum in Houston, TX. Look for the world belt to change or be held up after another screwy ending... Conflicting reports on Paul E. Dangerously. Some say he has already quit the ICW and will start with Titan after Wrestlemania. Others say he's still there. One thing is for sure though. If Paul E. drops his suit against the NWA they'll take him back in a flash... PWF to start up weekly once again on 3/9. Moving it from Sundays to Fridays. I don't think it'll make much difference... World Class's last super hero Eric Embry on the way to Florida... Jimmy Backlund now the Florida light-heavy champ. Said he won it in Las Vegas. Must have been on that LPWA card.... Vince drew 5,000 in Charlotte for an afternoon card the day of Wrestle War... Mike Graham & Steve Keirn were to have a meeting with Flair this week. About whta, I'm not sure but it may be moot since Ric isn't booking anymore. Probably wishful thinking on my part that they would use Florida as a feeder circuit... Rumors around that Dusty has filed for personal bankruptcy.... WWF's Royal Rumble was the Orlando Arenas 4th top attendance of the past year. They also had a card that was the fourth lowest thogh on 5/8. That show grossed \$43,898.

Letter To The Editor

Texas Wrestling

There are four or five groups here in Texas now. USWA works three-four nights a week and totally sucks. (Dundee in main events, Kerry in opening match.) Tim Brooks has Ft. Worth on Monday, Dallas on Tuesday and some spot shows. Putski is starting soon around Austin. Gary Hart is starting to book spot shows with Steve Corey the tennis promoter who "helped" World Class years ago. Johnny Valentine is starting another one, plus there are two "smaller" groups that use rejects from Adams' and Brooks' schools and guys who can't get matches elsewhere. Unfortunatl with all this, there aren't enough decent wrestlers in the state for one federation.

Larry Dwyer
Arlington, TX

*** COSMIC CLOTHESLINE ***

by Jersey Joe Mullins

By now you've probably read Ron Lemieux's version of the mini-convention/get together by a bunch of hardcore fans and sheet editors who attended the NWA's WrestleWar'90 in Greensboro. Whether it is due to modesty, self-preservation, embarrassment, or threats of reprisal by the other guys who attended, Ron has intentionally omitted or lied about what really happened on Friday night when some of the fellas decided to pay a visit to the WWF's "Main Event" show in Detroit, Michigan. (If Ron says he and the boys "watched" the NBC televised card on t.v. in someone's hotel room or at a sports bar in downtown Greensboro, forget it. The fact is Dave Meltzer, Steve Beverly, Wade Keller, Lance LeVine, Steve Sims, Dan Reilly, Harry White, Jeff Zinger, and Ron Lemieux were all there at Joe Louis Arena in Motor City USA, on Friday evening, two nights prior to the NWA's "Wild Thing" in North Carolina.)

It was Zinger's idea that they disguise themselves as current or former NWA stars, pile into the Lear Jet co-owned by Reilly and Sims, kidnap LeVine and Keller along the way, and then land in Detroit to see in-person how the Tyson-Hogan-Savage-Warrior-Windham thing would come off. (Actually none of them believed for a moment that former NWA great Barry Windham would be there, or that he would dress-up as the Ultimate Warrior and do a run-in as predicted by the editors of RWRB Pro Wrestling Sushi, but just in case it did happen (since they were all Barry Windham fans at heart), they wanted to be there to witness this incredible angle.

Now, before going on, I've got to explain to new readers of Arena Report (and female subscribers who might not understand) how these wrestling show/fans' party things work. First of all, seeing a "live" major wrestling card, staying up late to watch wrestling tapes from Japan, flirting with Missy Hyatt, trying to hit on 14-year-old female ring rats, talking to wrestlers after the show at cocktail lounges, or making fake "Prince Albert in a can" type phone calls at three a.m. is only part of this male-bonding adventure. The other vital part--kind of like a rite of passage or ritual into manhood--is sort of secret and is rarely mentioned in the sheets until now. This part of the trip is where each participant attempts to pull off a wild practical joke or do something unbelievably outlandish in front of the others, a stunt so bizarre and unforgettable it will long be remembered even as recollection of the weekend's main event fades into oblivion.

By the time the Lear landed and the costumed, face-painted crew of aforementioned insider fans and editors reached the arena in Detroit, the warm-up matches were complete and a large awards ceremony (conducted by Vince McMahon) was taking place inside a steel cage. It was only minutes before the "live" show was to go on the air and things happened pretty quickly as (with the odds being ten zillion to one that it could ever happen again) each of the mini-confab guys--without having revealed to any of the others his own secret stunt he was going to pull--had all planned the same, incredible, identical stunt and at the same moment ran down the aisles in their NWA wrestler-look-alike outfits and charged into the ring, all except Meltzer who had sneaked on a pair of roller skates, donned a jammer's helmet and climbed to the top of the steel cage where he stood with his arms and hands spread like Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka just before he splashed then WWF Champ Bob Backlund in the early eighties.

What happened next? Who was disguised as whom? Who else besides McMahon was in the ring when the kay fabe run-in occurred? Did Dave "fly?" Did Howard Finkle get "Frankensteinered?" To be continued in Arena Report Vol. II, Number 14. Meanwhile...let 'em grow and hang 'em out to dry.

IT'S MY TWO CENTS

by Mike Terry

My thanks to Ron for allowing me this forum. It's strictly one person's view on the greatest sport in the world.

I'm excited about the prospect of classic matches on NWA TV, but I hope they don't expect the modern audience to sit through some of those snoozers from the 50's... The NWA should rethink their hard line attitude about not allowing the guys to tour Japan. I guess the bigger question these days is if Japan still wants them.

Who writes the scripts for Sean Mooney's Event Center segments? Booorrinnggg... Hillbilly Jim--love ya, babe--but you'll need more than that lucky horseshoe to keep the All American gig...add my name to the list of Lee Scott fans. (RL- If you want to join the fan club for Lee, write to Steve Sims.) In fact, he got my vote for rookie of the year. Saw Kevin Von Erich on ESPN the other day. Reminded me of the Dylan tune "Rainy Day Women #12 & 35..."

The AWA show on ESPN has improved its' production values, but my favorite part of the show still is watching for Wade Keller at ring-side...The Canadian Earthquake just doesn't register on my Richter scale. Allocades to Lex Luger for his interview at Clash X...Your entitled to your opinion, but how can anyone miss Gary Hart? Sorry, but he was nothing but a drain on the bank account...

I have to be honest. The first few times I saw Lance Russell before he came to the NWA I was unimpressed. These days, I look forward to NWA Pro--mainly for him. But isn't his strength really in the interview situation? Hmmm--Lance's Lounge..Russell's Rendezvous... I've been a proud wrestling fan for three decades, but I still get excited waiting for World Championship Wrestling on Saturday nights. Do you think I'm hooked? It's my 2-cents--until next time.

Correspondent Reports

Boston Garden

Boston, MA

February 10, 1999

Correspondent: Louie Fortuna

1) Hercules beat Conquistador with a backbreaker in 9:57. 2) Red Rooster made Al Perez submit to the chicken wing at 10:48. 3) Ron Garvin used the scorpion in 8:22 to make Brooklyn Brawler say uncle. 4) Rockers beat Powers of Pain via DQ in 10:43 as Fuji tripped Michaels. Marty looked awesome. He also did a stretcher job. 5) Jim Neidhart rolled up Greg Valentine in 11:06. Louie said enough said. I agree. 6) Dusty Rhodes beat Randy Savage via count out in 9:06. Dusty smacked Macho with Sherri's purse to knock him out of the ring. The Boston chapter of "Save The Whales" were rooting for Rhodes. 7) Roddy Piper beat Rick Rude in a great cage match in 11:20. Rude bled a bit the hard way. Perez slammed the door on Piper at one point here as well. (Why?) Axx 8,000

Wheeling Civic Center

Wheeling, WV

February 16, 1999

Correspondent: John Lanigan

1) Greg Valentine beat Sam Houston with the figure four at 7:40. Valentine now has dark black hair similar in style to Honkey. Rhythm and blues baby. C 2) Bret Hart pinned the Genius with a small package in 9:40. Poffo was going for a suplex when Bret caught him. C 3) Bob Bradley upset Jim Powers in 9:10 with a reverse leg hook from a suplex. C 4) Hacksaw Duggan beat Curt Hennig at 8:39 when Perfect collided with Poffo and Duggan scored the pin. An atrocity. C 5) Bushwhackers beat The Bolsheviks in 13:33 as Butch hit Boris with Zuchov's boot. C 6) Red Rooster beat Black Knight (sub for Bad News) with a sunset flip

at 4:35. Knight was probably Jerry Valiant. D- 7) Dusty Rhodes beat Randy Savage via count out in 6:34. Same finish as everywhere. C+ Att:3,7

Nashville Sports Arena

Nashville, TN

February 17, 1990

Correspondent: Dan Reilly

1) Soul Taker squashed Ben Jordan in 3:52. Dan says Taker is a Zeus wanna be. Dud 2) Dirty White Boy defeated Chris Champion in 13:23. If Champion lost he had to give back Dirty White Girl and if White Boy lost, he had to leave town. DWB reversed a Champion flying bodypress for the win. ** $\frac{1}{4}$ 3) Dutch Mantell & Jimmy Jack Funk beat Gary Young & Chris Youngblood via over the top rope DQ in 14:01. Heels do the Ranger and Pronto gimmick. Match not good at all. $\frac{1}{4}$ * 4) Southern Rockers won the USWA tag belts from the Stud Stable, Brian Lee & Robert Fuller. Fuller accidentally hit Lee with the bell and Steve Doll pinned Prime Time. ** 5) Bill Dundee & Jeff Jarrett downed Jerry Lawler & Billy Travis when Jeff pinned Travis. Mostly heels choking faces with the tag rope. Post match brawl saw "Superstar" thrown out of the ring but son Jaime makes the save. (Spare me) ** Att: 285 Dan attended this show while on bidness. (As Downtown Bruno would say.)

Madison Square Garden

New York, NY

February 19, 1990

Correspondents: Dave Wolfe & Elyse Zois

1) Tito Santana pinned the returning Playboy Buddy Rose with the flying forearm. Rose looks to be 250 but still moves okay and does five one handed pushups. * 2) Earthquake beat Ron Garvin in short order and then delivered some aftershocks which got Ronnie a ride on the stretcher. Dud 3) Rick Martel beat Terry Taylor with a Boston crab. * $\frac{1}{2}$ 4) Hulk Hogan & Brutus Beefcake beat Curt Hennig & Lanny Poffo in over 25:00. Heels had the offensive most of the way. Hogan pinned Lanny after a legdrop. Hennig left the ring and the faces proceeded to give Poffo another haircut. * 5) Bad News Brown pinned Jim Brunzell with the ghetto blaster. * 6) Dusty Rhodes over Akeem via count out. -** 7) Rockers and Hacksaw Duggan beat Powers of Pain & Mr. Fuji as Jannetty pinned the Master as he was going for salt. **

Boutwell Auditorium

Birmingham, AL

February 21, 1990

Correspondent: Gina Holt

1) Tommy Rich rolled up Cactus Jack. $\frac{1}{2}$ * 2) Rock N Roll Express beat Midnight Express as Cornette hit Eaton with the racquet by mistake. *** 3) Norman the Lunatic sat on Kevin Sullivan for the win. -* 4) Samoan Swat Team downed Ranger Ross & Eddie Gilbert with Samu pinning Ranger. * 5) Dynamic Dudes beat Royal Family. Littlebrook funny here. * $\frac{3}{4}$ 6) Arn Anderson retained the TV title by beating Ricky Morton (sub for Muta) ** $\frac{1}{2}$ 7) Ric Flair beat Lex Luger via DQ. Luger threw Flair over the top but ref was groggy. Second ref counted the pin and the crowd (?) popped thinking title change but ref came to and DQ'd Luger. *** $\frac{3}{4}$ Att: 800

Asheville Civic Center

Asheville, NC

February 23, 1990

Correspondent: Dan Reilly

1) Tommy Rich pinned Cactus Jack in 8:05. At one point, Rich spit in the air and caught it again. Uuugh. $\frac{1}{2}$ * for Manson. 2) Rock N' Roll Express downed the Midnight Express as Eaton was hit with the racquet. Good work and time was 12:20. *** $\frac{3}{4}$ 3) Wild Samoans beat Ranger Ross & Eddie Gilbert in 10:15 as Fatu hit Ross with a spinning thrust kick. Dud. 4) Norman sat on Kevin Sullivan in 6:10. $\frac{1}{2}$ * 5) Dynamic Dudes over the Royal Family in 12:40 as Douglas small packaged Jacko. * 6) Arn Anderson

defeated Ricky Morton (sub for Muta) in 14:20 with a spinebuster. * $\frac{1}{2}$
7) Ric Flair beat Lex Luger via over the top rope DQ in 15:05. They
did a false Dusty finish earlier here too. *** Att: 2,300

Final Word

That wraps up another round of "AR". I'd like some feedback on this issue. While I was on the plane coming home I was excited to get started on telling you my travails of the weekend. It didn't seem to come out as well as I wanted it to. Let me know if you enjoyed this issue. I'm always in such a hurry to get the latest info out to you that I may inadvertantly forsake quality. Let me know gang

Just got a call from Dan who changed planes in Charlotte on his way home to CT. He saw Andre the Giant at the airport and they were wheeling him around in an invalid's chair. Don't look into this as anything. He probably has to do that everywhere he goes. What a sad story.

Until the double action weekend of 3/16, take it slow and don;t forget those "pockets for your stubs".

See ya,

Ron